

Hello,

I am an XM radio subscriber, and I \*PAY\* a monthly fee for their service. I LOVE having satellite radio - radio that offers such a wide and wonderful array of programming, commercial-free, as opposed to my local radio stations owned by media behemoth Clear Channel. At least on XM Radio, I actually get to hear liberal talk radio - something that practically doesn't exist in other media - my local weather and traffic, and the types of less-popular music that I like. All for a small fee, and I can get the signal anywhere in the US. I also can turn on the local channel for my city, and get news and weather whenever I want or need to listen to it. I don't need to wait for commercial breaks, or sit through talk shows or music I don't like, just to hear the weather or news while I am driving. It is really about choices, and I think the fact that I choose to pay for a radio subscription says something about the quality of my local free programming.

I think it is ridiculous that the NAB wants to keep XM and most likely Sirius, the other satellite radio network, from broadcasting traffic and weather reports. The percentage of people in my area at least that have satellite radio is probably 1% of the population - a percentage so small as to be almost meaningless. Millions of people listen to or watch the normal radio channels and TV stations during the course of their day, and most people prefer to watch the weather and news, for instance, instead of listening to it on the radio.

I think it is high time that media conglomerates lost a little of their deathgrip on American media. I think one could say that this is an issue of monopoly - the NAB is just worried because they have a quality competitor, finally, and it is making them nervous. Perhaps if they put out a better product that wasn't the same bland thing in nearly every city in the country, they wouldn't have to sweat some competition from a little satellite network! I live in Pittsburgh, and the last time I went to Florida for vacation, the alternative radio station we listened to down there had the same-sounding disc jockeys and the same tired old repetition of songs as what I could hear back home. Who wants that?! Not only is it boring, it's kind of scary that radio has become so bland and homogenized. That is why I pay for XM Radio!

Honestly, though - this issue is really about a paid product. I pay for my satellite radio subscription, and the NAB should have no say over what programming \*I\* pay for! It would be like the cable companies asking the government to ban satellite TV networks from carrying the same channels they do, because of the competition. It is just a ridiculous situation all around. Competition is a healthy part of society and our economy.

I respectfully request that you reject petition 04-160, and tell the NAB to mind their own business! Perhaps people wouldn't be turning to satellite radio for better programming if they did.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Catherine Tulley

Loyal XM Radio listener, and glad they finally have a channel just for weather and news for my city.